

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An item of equipment (1) for a motor vehicle, ~~of the type~~ comprising:

a rigid supporting reinforcement (5); and

a flexible padding (7) covering [[the]] an outer face (9) of the supporting reinforcement, the padding having an outer covering skin (17),

wherein the padding has projections (19, 27) that are made in one piece with the outer skin (17) and that rest on the outer face (9) of the supporting reinforcement (5), and wherein the projections (19, 27) delimit between them deforming spaces (21) of the padding to give [[it]] the padding its flexibility so that the padding can deform on touch at least by deformation of some of the projections.

2. (currently amended) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein [[it]] the item of equipment includes means (31, 33, 35, 37) for attaching the padding (7) onto the supporting reinforcement (5).

3. (original) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 2, wherein the means of attachment comprise snap-on devices (31, 33, 35, 37).

4. (previously presented) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein a housing (15) for accommodating a movable device (17) is provided in the supporting reinforcement (5).

5. (currently amended) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 4, wherein [[a]] the movable device (17) for controlling an accessory of the motor vehicle is accommodated in the housing (15).

6. (currently amended) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 5, wherein at least one projection (27) of the padding (7) rests on the control movable device (17), and wherein said projection (27) is separated from the projections (19) of the padding (7) that rest on the supporting reinforcement (5) around the housing (15).

7. (previously presented) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein the projections are ribs (19, 27) and wherein the deforming spaces are cells (21) delimited between the ribs (19, 27).

8. (currently amended) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein [[it]] the item of equipment includes means (39) for putting the spaces (21) into communication with at least one of each other and/or with or the outside atmosphere.

9. (currently amended) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein [[it]] the item of equipment constitutes a dashboard of a motor vehicle.

10. (previously presented) A motor vehicle having an item of equipment (1), wherein the item of equipment is an item according to claim 1.

11. (new) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supporting reinforcement (5) is curved so as to give the item of equipment its shape.

12. (new) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 11, wherein the item of equipment is a dashboard.

13. (new) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein the padding (7) can deform on touch at least by buckling of some of the projections (19,27).

14. (new) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein the item of equipment includes means (39) for putting the spaces (21) into communication with each other.

15. (new) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein the item of equipment includes means (39) for putting the spaces (21) into communication with an outside atmosphere.

16. (new) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein the padding (7), the skin (17) and the projections (19,27) are formed in one piece from elastomeric thermoplastic material.

17. (new) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 16, wherein the elastomeric thermoplastic material is polyurethane, polyolefin, polyvinyl chloride or silicone rubber.

18. (new) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supporting reinforcement (5) is formed from a polyolefinic thermoplastic.

19. (new) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supporting reinforcement (5) is formed from acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene and polycarbonate, and the

supporting reinforcement includes at least one of an inorganic filler or a glass fiber reinforcement.

20. (new) The item of equipment according to claim 1,  
wherein the padding (7) is more flexible than the supporting  
reinforcement (5).